

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00289 171828Z

14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 IO-11 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PER-01 CPR-01 EB-07 SAM-01

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R 171714Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7402

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NY 393

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, TP, US

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO GSTP

SUMMARY: PRESENTED CREDENTIALS FEBRUARY 14 TO GSTP

PRESIDENT DA COSTA, WHO USED OCCASION TO MAKE RENEWED PLEA  
FOR US AID TO SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. ACTION

REQUESTED: EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESCHEDULING OF STP VISIT  
BY AID REPRESENTATIVE DEFERRED FROM LAST DECEMBER. END  
SUMMARY

1. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM DEJARNETTE AND PAO STEPHERSON  
I PRESENTED CREDENTIALS FEBRUARY 14 IN SAO TOME TO GSTP  
PRESIDENT MANUEL PINTO DA COSTA. CEREMONY WAS COMPLETE  
WITH HONOR GUARD AND NATIONAL ANTHEMS, AND ATMOSPHERE WAS  
EXTREMELY CORDIAL THROUGHOUT.

2. IN MY OWN REMARKS (BEING POUCHED AF/C), DELIVERED  
IN FRENCH, I STRESSED USG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING  
CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH GSTP ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL  
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00289 171828Z

INTEREST EVEN WHEN OUR POSITIONS MAY NOT BE IDENTICAL.

REPLYING IN PORTUGUESE, DA COSTA REAFFIRMED GSTP POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH USG WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. FOLLOWING THIS FORMAL EXCHANGE, I HAD HALF-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH DA COSTA AND FONMIN LEONE D'ALVA (ON WHOM I HAD CALLED EARLIER IN DAY) WHICH CENTERED ON STP'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR USG ASSISTANCE. I OUTLINED FOR DA COSTA AND D'ALVA AID ALREADY PROVIDED BY USG IN FORM OF TRAINING (BOTH INDEPENDENCE GRANT AND AAI PROGRAMS) AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO WFP, AND RECALLED MY EARLIER EXCHANGES ON SAME SUBJECT WITH PRIMIN TROVOADA IN WHICH POSSIBLE VISITS TO STP BY AID AND PC REPRESENTATIVES WERE SUGGESTED. VISIT BY AID REPRESENTATIVE, REQUESTED BY TROVOADA, HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER BUT UNFORTUNATELY POSTPONED, BUT I HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RESCHEDULE HIS TRIP FOR EARLY SPRING. PC WAS ALSO PREPARED SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROGRAMS, I NOTED, BUT HAD DEFERRED DOING SO IN WAKE OF GSTP DECISION TO CONSULT FIRST WITH AID.

4. IN WAKE MY REVIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR ASSISTANCE, WHICH INCLUDED CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT DIFFICULTIES OF FINDING FUNDS FOR NEW PROGRAMS AT TIME OF TIGHT AID BUDGETS, DA COSTA SAID STP'S GREATEST NEED IS FOR FINANCIAL RATHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. GRANTED, HE SAID, GSTP NEEDS TECHNICAL AID, BUT VALUE OF TECHNICAL HELP IS SEVERLY LIMITED BY ABSENCE OF FUNDS TO UNDERTAKE PROJECTS FOR WHICH TECHNICIANS ARE NEEDED. THIS, HE IMPLIED, IS ONE REASON WHY GSTP MORE INTERESTED IN AID THAN IN PC, SINCE FORMER IS SEEN AS POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CAPITAL ASSISTANCE WHILE LATTER CAN ONLY OFFER TECHNICAL HELP.

5. PRESIDENT DA COSTA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD NOT TAKE TOO SERIOUSLY PORTUGUESE STATISTICS ON PER CAPITA INCOME, WHICH SHOW \$375 AS OFFICIAL FIGURE FOR STP. PORTUGUESE, DA COSTA SAID, DELIBERATELY INFLATED PER CAPITA INCOME FIGURES FOR ALL THEIR AFRICAN TERRITORIES IN ORDER TO "PROVE" TO WORLD HOW MUCH THEY WERE DOING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LIBREV 00289 171828Z

DEVELOP THESE AREAS. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, DA COSTA SAID GSTP DOES NOT KNOW WHAT ACTUAL PER CAPITA INCOME FIGURE SHOULD BE, AND IS NOW TRYING TO DEVELOP MORE ACCURATE STATISTICS ON THIS POINT.

6. FONMIN D'ALVA ADDED FINAL REQUEST FOR SPECIAL HELP IN FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS. HE SAID ONE OF GSTP'S GREATEST PROBLEMS IS MAINTAINING LINKS BETWEEN WIDELY-

SEPARATED ISLANDS OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILES APART), SO THAT SUITABLE AIRCRAFT FOR INTER-ISLAND SERVICE WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION. I SUGGESTED SUBJECT BE RAISED WITH AID REPRESENTATIVE AT TIME OF HIS VISIT, AS HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS GSTP WOULD CONSTITUTE ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING SUITABLE PROGRAMS AND DETERMINING WHAT BUDGETARY SITUATION WOULD PERMIT.

7. EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH D'ALVA ALSO DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTS FOR USG ASSISTANCE, BUT INCLUDED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN IN GREATER DETAIL RESPECTIVE ROLES OF AID AND PC. D'ALFA SEEMED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN OUR DESCRIPTION OF PC PROGRAMS IN GABON AND ELSEWHERE AND OF POSSIBILITY FOR USING PCVS IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNDP PROJECTS.

8. COMMENT: DA COSTA AND HIS COLLEAGUES COME ACROSS AS SERIOUS, HARD-WORKING, AND PRAGMATIC GROUP GENUINELY COMMITTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR MINUSCULE COUNTRY AND PREPARED TO WORK ON NON-IDEOLOGICAL BASIS WITH ALL DONORS WILLING TO ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT. UNDP HAS ALREADY MADE SIGNIFICANT START BY DEFINING SERIES OF PROJECTS AND PROVIDING SOME ASSISTANCE, AND FRENCH AND ROMANIANS ARE IN LEAD AMONG POTENTIAL BI-LATERAL DONORS. MODEST USG PROGRAM, HOPEFULLY INCLUDING BOTH AID AND PC COMPONENTS, STILL LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT, BOTH PROVIDING AID WHERE IT WILL HAVE REAL IMPACT AND OPENING WAY TO CONTINUING DIALOGUE WHICH MAY GRADUALLY WEAN GSTP AWAY FROM AUTOMATIC UNGA VOTING WITH OTHER EX-PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST POSSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 LIBREV 00289 171828Z

RESCHEDULING OF AID VISIT TO STP WHICH ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER. PLEASE ADVISE ANTICIPATED DATE SO WE MAY INFORM GSTP SOONEST. STEIGMAN

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## Message Attributes

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